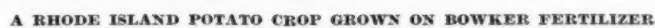


TERMS: \$1.00 per Annum, in Advance.

No. 27.

A BIG HARVEST.



ies, then spend an equal or longer time
n hulling them. Finally, a delightful,



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g the "handiest"
es the work of
r free catalogue.

Rhode Island Barred Plymouth Rocks,
 Rhode Island Reds and Buff Cochins. 50
 birds a mixture. Order at once.
C. L. BARKER, East Vassalboro, Me.
ECCS. \$1.00 for 15
\$4.00 for 100
 Barred and Buff Plymouth Rocks, Rhode
 Island Reds, and White Wyandottes. Stand-
 ard stock; great layers; fine birds. Will
 please you. Order at once.
E. E. ROGERS, Yarmouthville, Me.
THE IMPROVED
VICTOR Incubator
 Incubates all the fowl, is
 durable and easily oper-
 ated. The manual type con-
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 for the use of the incubator.
 Mr. Victor's
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Maine Farmer.

ESTABLISHED IN 1833.

Published every Thursday, by
The Maine Farmer Publishing Co.,
AUGUSTA, MAINE.JOSEPH H. MANLEY, Director.
OSCAR HOLWAY, Director.
JAMES S. SANBORN, Director.
GEORGE M. TWITCHELL, Director.JOSEPH H. MANLEY, President.
GEORGE M. TWITCHELL, Editor and Manager

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1900.

\$1.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.
\$1.50 AFTER 3 MONTHS.ONLY AGRICULTURAL
NEWSPAPER IN MAINE.TERMS OF ADVERTISING:
For one inch space, \$2.50 for four inser-
tions and sixty cents for each subsequent
insertion. Classified ads. one cent a word,
each insertion.COLLECTORS' NOTICES.
Mr. T. Brooks Reed is calling on subscribers
in Kennebec county.
Mr. S. S. Berry is calling on subscribers
in York county.
Mr. A. G. Fitts is calling on subscribers in
Cumberland county.
Mr. E. M. Marks is calling on subscribers in
Oxford county.Sample Copy sent on applica-
tion.Try the Maine Farmer for one
month.The authors of Maine are contributing
to a Home Week booklet with a hearty
good will. The following statistics but hint
at its richness. Miss Julia Harris May, the
author of a book of beautiful poems,
thus welcomes the suggestion:"O wanderers from the land of Maine, the
perfume of the pine
Still lingers with your memory, while hearts
and hands combine
To weave for you memorial wreaths that
twine the evergreen,
With clover and hollyhock, and Mayflowers
set between,
And look across the wide, wide world, and
call to you again!
'Come back, your mother longs for you, ye
wanderers of Maine!'"Prof. Adolbert F. Caldwell, of the Illi-
nois Wesleyan University tells us that"The brooms stop their teasing, with excited
wonder what
Below the fern stand tips in their loam.
To hear the joyful tidings that are whispered
all around,
Maine's sons and daughters all are coming
home."Mrs. S. R. Graham Clark of Burling-
ton, Vt., inspired by the prospect of a
week in Maine, sends two poems in one
of which she says:"A week in Maine? Why friends, the thought
Just makes me mad with joy.
Sets all my nerves aflutter with life
As when I was a boy.""To rove once more amid the scenes
To childhood's vision given,
Why, sir, to me a week in Maine
Seems very much like heaven."Elizabeth Grinnell, a gifted daughter
of the Pine Tree State, now residing at
Pasadena, Cal., sends a poem addressed
to "Mother Maine," the opening verse of
which will tell the story:"I have wandered away, O mother, away to
the tranquil sea,
Where the lazy waves chant softly their carol
Of April glee,
Where the ships on the blue Pacific their
sleepy beat patrol,
And the halcyon south winds proffer their
aims to the drowsing soul,
Where the still, white sand of the sea rim
cuddles the gold of the gods,
And above, low bent but untroubled, the face
of the zenith nods,
Where the hills to the northward signal with
their snow-white finger-tips,
And the valley between makes answer sweet
congrued from its rosy lips,
It is here I have wandered, O mother, but my
heart goes back to thee—
To thy bosom so changeless, yet constant,
where I learned life's A. B. C."Remember the Pomological Friday
Institute at Northport Tuesday and Satur-
day. It should be fully attended.The early hatching of the caterpillars
and the necessity for immediate spraying
is well set forth in the letter from the
successful fruit grower, R. H. Libbey,
Newport.Last year the pea crop was greatly in-
jured and in many cases totally destroyed
by the pea louse, and there are good rea-
sons to fear a great increase in their num-
bers this year.The debate at Waterville between Bates
and Colby clearly indicates the high qual-
ity of the young men going out from our
colleges. Each part was ably sus-
tained and the arguments were of a high
order. The state will never suffer so long
as we can grow men of like calibre.It is the sheerest nonsense to blame
the sheriffs for the non-enforcement of a
law when the expressed public sentiment
is so decidedly opposed to its enforce-
ment. What the state needs is an awak-
ened sentiment and until this comes the
law is a dead letter. Our indifference
should be our shame.Reports from every lake in Maine tell
the same story of an abundance of fish
ready for the fishermen. Thousands of
visitors from outside the state are this
week scattered all over Maine and the
number will rapidly increase as days
pass. The fishing interests of Maine
are assuming large proportions.A Wilkesbarre, Penn., cow that unac-
countably died under a doctor's care re-
cently, was found to have in her stomach
two hairpins, two large horseshoe nails,
four eighteen penny nails, three fourpenny
nails, three carpet tacks, two hatpins,
a small spike, two wire nails, 11 pieces of
broken glass, from the size of a pea to
that of a walnut, and nine stones of
about the same size. This was, doubt-
less, a general purpose animal.

Wendell Phillips struck the keynote in

modern literature when he said: "Not
one man in ten reads books; the news-
paper is parent, school, college, pulpit,
theater, example, counselor, all in one;
every drop of blood is colored by it.
Let me make the newspapers, and I care
not who makes the religion or the law."
No estimate can justly be placed upon
the newspaper which holds steadily to
its mission and is outspoken for what is
right and just.Special mention is being made by some
papers of the temperance principles of
members of Congress from Maine, to the
credit of the state and the sober-minded,
able and respected gentlemen. Let credit
be given, but at the same time we should
not forget that Maine congressmen, as
whole, have all the years reflected credit
upon the state and given it a high posi-
tion in public and private. The record
of the past and present is one to which
we may point with pride. Maine is send-
ing honored men to Washington and
always has. This is what has given the
state its influence in national legislation.

THE BIGNESS OF THINGS.

We talk of the rapid growth of this
nation, the increase of its industries, the
magnitude of its output but no man can
realize the magnitude of the output from
the counties, shops, mills, farms and
factories or the rapid multiplication of
inhabitants. Our population in 1870
was 38,500,000. In less than a single
generation we have doubled it. There
were then 5,871 newspapers. Now the
number exceeds 21,000. Our railway
mileage has grown from 52,922 to about
190,000. The figures run in this propor-
tion of increase along the whole line of
data that make for national expansion.
We raise twice as much corn as we did
in 1870, and over four times as much
oatmeal. The production of coal has
risen from 33,000,000 to nearly 200,000,
000 tons a year. We manufactured but
1,035,170 tons of pig iron in 1870, while
we produced nearly 12,000,000 in 1899.
The steel product has gone from 98,750
in 1870 to 8,932,857 in 1899. All the
while our imports of manufactures of
iron and steel have decreased, so that
last year we only needed to buy \$12,000,
000 worth abroad, as against \$33,000,000
formerly.Most marvelous has been the expan-
sion during the past thirty years, the
last decade showing the greatest propor-
tion.The salaries paid in our public schools
have increased from 38,000,000 to 124,
000,000, and where thirty years ago we
had \$15,000,000 in the savings banks of
the United States, held by 1,000,000 per-
sons, now there are \$2,330,000,000, held
by 5,687,000 persons. Meanwhile, our
exports have expanded marvelously,
having increased from \$11,000,000 in
value to more than \$94,000,000. If we
maintain the same increase for the next
thirty years a most marvelous story will
be rehearsed. We are building a nation
of tremendous proportions and it is yet
in its infancy. It is this thought which
alarms the student as he realizes the
rapidly increasing responsibilities to be
assumed by those who attempt to guide
its future policy. For weal or woe, for
better or worse this nation is to work
out the problem and the next fifty
years will solve the problem of the per-
manence of a republic.

IS THE WHOLE THING FIXED?

A letter from a well known citizen of
Maine comments upon the political situa-
tion, saying: "I see by the papers that
the whole thing is fixed, who is to be
governor and who is to succeed the next
governor. Is this a fact, and if so, when
did the people surrender their rights?"
The Farmer is pleased to find that the
citizens of Maine are waking to the fact
that as individuals they have rights as
well as responsibilities.It is true that in the dominant part of
the State it is universally conceded who
will be nominated for Governor, but in
this there has been no usurping of indi-
vidual rights. Any man or any number
of men who desire to make a contest
have a perfect right to do so. If the
press has voiced the sentiment of the
public it is only because no opposing
voice has been heard. The Farmer has
persistently, in season and out of season,
sought to arouse from the apathy
into which the great mass seem to have
fallen. The situation is unhealthy but
because the parties are not more evenly
divided and because the rank and file of
the people are so indifferent to political
duties. No man or body of men has a
mortgage on any office—town, county,
state or national. The outcome must
be the expression of the wish and will
of the people at the polls. Any man
has a right to announce his candidacy
for any position, in the gift of the
people, and he and his friends are to be
concerned if they fail to labor for the
success of the ticket, but there is no
usurpation of the rights of any other
person in this. The one thing lacking
is personal activity before and at the
primaries as well as the polls. If this
were manifested the situation would be
entirely changed, and there would be no
call for criticism. It is the letting go
on the part of a per cent. of the people,
the sitting down and doing nothing
which makes it possible for any man or
newspaper to announce, in advance of
the primaries, who will be nominated
for any office. The evils of the present
can be removed only by the activity of
the individual voter, and no one is
responsible save he who sits and com-
plains at what is going on in the polit-
ical field. A healthy political sentiment
is possible only when voters are watch-
ful and active, seeking to nominate good
men and working constantly for eco-
nomic legislation.

THE INIQUITY OF FEES.

For the past year the Farmer has fre-
quently urged attention to the question
of fees and the great cost to the state
and counties, the magnitude of the sum
realized by individual officials being be-
yond the knowledge of any one. It is
the weakest spot in our public policy,
for year by year it is being extended by
legislation for the benefit of a few and
not for the good of all. Naturally thoseA
GREAT
OFFER..The special offers made by the
publishers of the Maine Farmer
are such as to invite and claim the
attention of a much wider circle
of friends than the twelve thou-
sand families reached weekly, and
the kind efforts of subscribers to
extend the circle are fully appreciated.
Just now a special offer is made:For \$1.25 we will send the
Maine Farmer and New
York Weekly Tribune one
year.For \$1.50 the Farmer, the
Woman's Home Companion
and a complete Life of
Admiral Dewey.For \$1.50 the Farmer, the
Housekeeper and the Buck-
eye Cook Book. These mag-
azines are among the best in the
country.For \$1.65 the Farmer and the
Tri-Weekly New York
World.For \$1.75 the Farmer and
Tri-Weekly New York Tribu-
ne.In view of the special interest
centering at the present time in
the writings of Rev. C. M. Shel-
don, whose remarkable story is
now running in the Farmer, we
have arranged with the publishers
of his notable book, "In His
Steps," to furnish any who wish
at only 10 cents a copy. Cut
out this offer and enclose with the
money, and the book will be sent
by mail. This is an offer not to
be neglected.who are the recipients of the fees are
strenuous in favor of its maintenance.
While the people are advocating econ-
omy the first step to take is to cut off the
unnecessary, and in this case to make
the state and counties the profit sharers
instead of the individual office holders.
Every fee which comes directly from the
treasury or is a tax upon the taxpayer
should be stopped and a fixed salary
established. State Master Gardner in
his annual address at the Maine State
grange set forth this question in a man-
ner not to be refuted when he said:"We are satisfied from observation
that many of our public officials are
paid more for their services than they
would be able to earn engaged in
any business for themselves, and
more than is paid by private inter-
ests for the same kind of service, but
in addition our whole system is per-
meated with abuses arising from the
fee system. The idea that the public
should be obliged to pay men sal-
aries in the employ of the public,
and then when any part of the same
public have occasion to do business
with, or through, any department of
state or county, to have to pay a fee
which goes to the pocket of the offi-
cial is wrong in principle, and I have
no doubt abused to so large an extent,
that if the people realized how much
the public expense was in-
creased they would at once take ac-
tion to have a stop put to it."The whole question is here presented
in concise form and there is no denying
its justice.The growth of the evil and the ques-
tionable methods suspected as a means
of increasing earnings have led the For-
tland City Council to declare open war
against the whole system and the
press of the city to lead in demanding a
repeal of the laws granting fees. He
who looks below the surface will realize
that the problem is a complex one reach-
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FARM INSURANCE.

When the order went forth from cer-
tain fire insurance companies to with-
draw from farm risks, the Farmer ques-
tioned the right of a company doing
business under the supervision of the
State insurance department to discrimi-
nate against any one class of property
by refusing to accept same under any
conditions. The New England Ex-
change decided the question by a rerat-
ing of farm property very materially in-
creasing the rates. The companies
claim that the business of insuring
farm risks has been exceedingly disas-
trous to those companies which made a
specialty of it, and for some time it has
been felt necessary to take steps in re-
gard to raising rates all round. The
matter came under the discussion of the
New England Insurance exchange two
or three weeks ago, and it was then left to
a special committee to report on a proposed
schedule which would increase the price
of insurance practically 100 per cent.The following is the revised sched-
ule: Farm property occupied by owner,
minimum rates; dwellings and contents
and barns and contents, when barn is
not more than 300 feet from dwelling,and written with dwelling, on year, 60
cents, three years \$1.50; barns and con-
tents more than 300 feet from dwellings
when written with dwellings, one year
80 cents, three years \$2; barns and con-
tents when written without dwellings,
one year \$1, three years \$2.50; tenant
farm property, dwellings and contents
and barns and contents, when barn is
not more than 300 feet from dwelling
and written with dwelling, one year 90
cents, three years \$2.25; barns and con-
tents more than 300 feet from dwellings
when written with dwellings, one year
\$1.20, three years \$3; farm build-
ings occupied by man or superintendent
of farm are not to be considered tenant
farms and no farm property shall be
written for a longer term than three
years. The result will be the organiza-
tion of more mutual companies for local
protection.In Minnesota there are 126 cooperative
township insurance companies, limited
by township lines and devoted almost
exclusively to farm insurance. They
carry \$111,000,000 of insurance, and the
entire cost of operation, plus losses, last
year was only about \$204,000; and it is
estimated that the farmers of the State
saved \$353,000 on their year's insurance.
There are in Minnesota about 2400 town-
ships, of which 2091 are organized for
township mutual insurance.

HAVE YOU ORGANIZED?

The success of Old Home Week will
rest entirely upon the home folks in
Maine and New Hampshire. The dates
have been fixed, the ball set in motion,
public attention directed towards the
home states, state organizations perfect-
ed and interest awakened. Now the re-
sponsibility passes to the cities and
towns where organized effort alone will
insure complete success. Before the
busy season every town should organize
and perfect plans for at least one general
holiday during the week. The outsiders
have been from every town and they will
seek the familiar spots and hope to greet
again the schoolyard friends. There's
much depending upon the success of
this Home Week for its possibilities for
advertising New England are great and
by a little extra effort every one may be
sent back to sing the song of praise over
mountain, hill, valley, lake and seashore
to thousands who know not its wealth
of beauty or health giving power. Rally
for Old Home Week and organize for a
special holiday in every locality.

HAVE YOU WRITTEN?

If the Grout bill before Congress, in-
tended to put bogus butter where it be-
longs and not allow it to be sold in imi-
tation of the pure article, fails, it will be
because the producers of pure butter do
not make their influence felt by writing
their senators and representatives. This
should not be delayed. Write at once
expressing your wish and interests in
the matter.There are some recent phases here in
the fight over the oleomargarine bill to
tax that product at the rate of ten cents
a pound, which will interest the farmers
of the State of Maine. The labor bod-
ies in some sections of the country, espe-
cially in very large cities, are taking a
policy quite antagonistic to the stand that
the farmers and dairymen of the various
Northern states are taking. These labor
men are sending a great many resolu-
tions to Congress protesting against the
passage of the so-called Grout bill and
declaring that it would be class legisla-
tion and would also work great injury to
a large number of honest working men
who are employed by the oleomargarine
factories.These resolutions have been sent
largely to the ways and means of the
House, as that committee has had
charge of a resolution introduced by
Representative Tawney of Minnesota, to
require the commissioner of internal re-
venue to make public the ingredients of
oleomargarine. The committee voted
against that and it is more than probable
that the ingredients of oleomargarine
will for some time to come remain a
trade secret, although Mr. Tawney will
make a fight on the floor of the House
to make these ingredients public.

A NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE FAIR.

The managers of the Concord State
Fair have offered premiums amounting
to about \$1,000 exclusively to members
of the Grange in New Hampshire upon
exhibits to be made at the fair of this
Association in Concord, September 4-7.
This amount is larger than the amount
paid in premiums at Tilton in seven of
the fourteen years in which the Grange
state fair was held there, and about the
same as the average amount paid during
the entire period. This proposition is
not intended to interfere in any way
with grange fairs held in any part of the
state, but simply to accommodate such as
have been in the habit of exhibiting at
the grange state fair or other grange
fairs not to be held this year. This is in
addition to the \$4,000 the Concord state
fair association offers in premiums open
to members of the grange and others and
it is safe to predict that seventy-five per
cent. of this amount will also be awarded
and paid to members of the grange. The
entire amount awarded in the general,
and in the grange, departments is guar-
anteed to be paid regardless of weather
or receipts. This is a condition seldom
experienced in agricultural fairs in New
Hampshire. The officers and directors
of the Concord state fair, with four ex-
ceptions, are members of the grange and
the superintendents will be chiefly cho-
sen from among those who have been
connected with grange fairs in the state.
No liquor selling or gambling will be al-
lowed upon the grounds and expert
judges will be employed in all depart-
ments. It is proposed to hold a clean
fair, one creditable to the agricultural
interests of the state, all premiums and
expenses being guaranteed at the start.
Upon this basis the executive board of
the grange state fair has recommended
the Concord fair to the support of mem-
bers of the grange throughout the state.
This need interfere in no way with the
support of local fairs, whether under
the name of grange fair or not, but doesoffer an opportunity for the grange to
co-operate in holding a magnificent
state exhibition.
Fraternally,
N. J. BACHELDER.
Concord, April 30, 1900.

A BRUTAL MURDER.

One of the most brutal murders ever
committed in Maine was that of Mrs.
Fannie Spriggs, 30 years of age, a do-
mestic in the family of Samuel Locke,
at South Berwick Junction, who was
murdered Tuesday morning. The body
was found in a barn owned by Florence J. Knight,
showed conclusively that the deed was
committed Tuesday forenoon, under con-
ditions which indicate a premeditated
murder of the most atrocious nature,
and the attempt on the part of the mur-
derer to burn the barn and conceal all
evidence of his crime. The body when
found in a smouldering mass of excelsior,
was entirely nude, with the exception of
corsets and shoes, the remainder of the
clothing having been eaten away by the
flames, and the left arm of the woman
burned to a crisp.The crime was discovered by Mrs.
Knight, the owner of the barn, and George
Warren, who had returned to the place
from the woods in search of a plank.
They were attracted by a fearful
stench as they entered the opening in
which the barn is situated, and on in-
vestigation discovered a thick volume of
smoke issuing from the barn cellar. The
two men secured several buckets of water
and succeeded in quenching the flames,
which were found to have originated in
a cow stall in the cellar.As the fire was extinguished, the odor
of burning flesh caused them to investi-
gate still further and they discovered
from the debris of the woodwork and
refuse, the nude body of Mrs. Fannie
Spriggs, 30 years of age. Her throat had
been cut and the head was almost se-
vered from the body, while the skull was
horribly crushed and beaten almost to a
jelly, and there was a bad contusion over
the right eye, the blow from which in-
stantly would have been sufficient to cause
its death.Although the body was badly burned
it could be easily identified. The woman's
hat and a set of false teeth, stained with
blood, were found outside upon the barn
floor.A piece of plank, two feet in length
and two inches square, was also found
covered with blood and matted hair and
it is evident that the terrible blows
which crushed the skull were inflicted
with this weapon. A diligent search
was made for the knife with which the
throat had been cut, but up to noon it
had not been found. From indications
it had appeared around the barn door, it
seems that the victim was lured into the
barn and assaulted just inside the door.
After being knocked down by the blow
of the stick, the woman was evidently
dragged feet first into the pen, her body
being nearly under the feed box, where
her throat was cut, there being three
distinct stabs, either of which would un-
doubtedly have caused her death, even if
she was alive after receiving the terri-
ble blow from the stick of wood. Ex-
celsior was then brought down from the
scaffold, placed over the body and set on
fire. Her left arm was burned to a
crisp, and her clothing was entirely con-
sumed by the flames, with the exception
of her corsets and boots, which were
practically burned.The murderer has not yet been ar-
rested.A correspondent of the Rookland
Courier-Gazette is after Secretary Mc-
Keon for stating that the falling off in
caterpillars in some places is due to the
care taken last year to prevent them
from climbing into the trees to deposit their
eggs, further explaining that cotton
battling had proved very successful.
This critic says, "I have lived among
the creeping things of our fields and
woods all my life, and have been a close
observer of their habits, have im-
prisoned divers and sundry species of
caterpillars and encouraged many and
various moths and butterflies, have dived
deep into the mysteries and lore of
'bugology,' and have never seen or heard
of this new miracle—this egg-baiting
breed of caterpillars. But moths and
butterflies—the perfect insects which
are evolved from the pupa or chrysalis
formed by the caterpillar when they get
tired of crawling and feel like flying—
these lay eggs in abundance; tiny little
things, too, about the size and shape of
a pin-head, and these in their turn
hatch into the tiniest of tiny cater-
pillars, which grow and grow, and eat
and eat, and until some morning
you step out and lo, your favorite
apple tree is a wreck as to foliage, and a
crawling, disgusting mass of horrible,
hairly caterpillars greets your eye, and
you wish with all your heart that they
were little. Put 'cotton battling' round
your trees if you will. Smear it [with
tar and then rest calmly in the assur-
ance that no caterpillar who values his
life will lift a foot over the boundary
you have set. But don't flatter your-
self that you have shut out the egg-lay-
ing moth with your little string of cot-
ton, because you haven't. Moths have
wings, and like the wind that bloweth
where it listeth, they lay their eggs
wherever it pleases them to do so.
You might as well expect to keep flies
out of your house by tying a cotton rag
round the cellar wall, as to keep eggs
from your trees with your band of cot-
ton."A real estate dealer in one of our large
cities reports increased sales and calls
for farm property, and this is in line with
the reports coming to this office. At the
same time, there are other good bargains
waiting purchasers, where age or ill
health renders a sale advisable. Our ad-
vertising columns tell of several farms
well located, stocked with wood, timber
and fruit and in good cultivation. We
know the farms and can testify to the
good opportunities open to purchasers.There will be a strong demand upon
the next legislature for an increased ap-
propriation for state pensions, many of
the applications coming from those who
enlisted in the Spanish war.

Have You Taken Advantage

Of Our "Going Out of the Ready-Made
Clothing Business" Sale?If not, come immediately. There is always a choice
even in as large a stock of fine clothing as ours.
Many are taking advantage of this sale to buy their
suits and overcoat for next winter. Why don't you?
This sale includes our whole spring and summer
stock of ready-made clothing. No goods reserved.
[No goods charged. All of our]

\$8 Suits now	\$5.00
10 " " " "	7 and 6.50
12 " " " "	8.00
15 " " " "	10.00
16 " " " "	10.00
18 " " " "	12.00
25 " " " "	15.00

We are making the same large reduction in boys'
and children's clothing.
You can make a saving of \$1.00 to \$1.50 on men's
trousers.
This clearance sale applies to our ready-made cloth-
ing only. We shall continue our men's and women's
tailoring and furnishing goods business.Chas. H. Nason,
12 & 2 Allen's Building, Augusta, Maine.

SYMPOSIUM ON FRUIT CULTURE.

[CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.]

requiring excessive thinning of the fruit.
The abundance is a large, handsome,
yellow and red, mostly red when fully
ripe, very sweet and juicy. Although
not a regular bearer, I value it far more
highly than any plum I have ever grown.
I judge this variety is rather capricious
as to soil or situation, and would advise
any one to go slow, and feel his way cau-
tiously with all Japan varieties.Grapes. No one should undertake to
raise grapes in Maine unless they strictly
observe two things: 1st, to select only
extra early varieties; 2d, plant them on
the south side of buildings, or in some
warm, sunny place, sheltered from north-
erly winds. My grapes get perfectly ripe
every year. They are planted on the
south side of a high, bank wall, and the
varieties that perfectly ripen are the
Janesville, Champion, Cortland and
Green Mountain. The first three are of
poor quality, but the Green Mountain is
a sweet grape of the best quality. Get a
strong, two-year-old vine to start with,
and don't allow it to bear until it has
become quite a large vine.Following the reading of the above
papers, a lively discussion arose, partici-
pated in by a large number of the
members, and which only closed for the
want of time to continue it further. For
want of room, only a few of the more
important points made can be given in
this connection.V. P. DeCoster, Buckfield, said: "Ob-
stacles in the way of growing fruit are
not altogether damaging. With nothing
to contend against, fruit would become
so plenty as to have little value. The
grower who can overcome these obstacles
is the one who makes the most out of
the business. Varieties must be se-
lected to suit localities. No kind, with
him, gives better returns than the R. I.
Greening. Believes in cultivation of
trees. Mulching tends to draw the roots
too near the surface. Trypeta can be
measurably held in check by gathering
and using or destroying falling fruit. In
an orchard of his where sheep run, never
has had the trypeta."Solon Chase: Has a fine Northern Spy
orchard. No fruit for two years past,
but courage is still good. Plows be-
tween the rows and grows strawberries
and other small fruits. The small fruits
give him fine crops and the apple trees
are thrifty and looking all right. The
object of the cultivation of small fruits
is primarily the benefit of the trees, but
finds the fruit very acceptable.Z. A. Gilbert: Believes growers are
catering too exclusively to the foreign
market. All over the country, east of
the Rocky Mountains and including Can-
ada, the principal planting is of varieties
suited for shipping abroad. The home
market wants fruit, but it wants only
good fruit, choice kinds and only the
best. We are all wrong in putting so
much second-quality fruit on the market.
It serves to drag down the price of all.
Believes that if this inferior fruit was
kept from the market, as much money
would be realized for the first quality
alone as we are now getting for both.F. A. Ricker, an apple shipper stated
that the commission houses were now
arranging to combine, and hereafter re-
fuse to handle any second-class fruit
whatever.
H. F. Dresser had made many mistakes
in his orchard work. The first was in
planting trees that were not first class.
The next was in planting the wrong va-
rieties. Next, setting too thick. Would
now recommend 40 feet apart. Another
was growing branches too low.
W. C. Whitman kept sheep in his or-
chard to eat up the trypeta, and they
would also take care of the matters of
low branches. His sheep would stand
on their hind legs to browse the branches.
Has not been troubled much with insects.
L. B. Blosson said that notwithstanding
the many new varieties of apples in
introduction of late, the long-standing va-
rieties are still best in demand and making
the growers the most money.
C. H. Moody had succeeded well in
pasturing his orchard to hogs. Fenced
off a portion each year and turns in a
lot of pigs. They plow and enrich the land
and eat up the fallen fruit.The meeting was a lively one to the
close, and all hands felt the day was well
spent.Liver complaints cured by BEECHAM'S
PILLS.

City News.

—Bethlehem lodge No. 35, F. and A.
M., sends a degree team to the grand
lodge this week to work the Master
Mason's degree.—The opening of the State grounds
opposite the State House, as a public
park will add much to the attractiveness
of Augusta, and will be appreciated by
all our citizens.—Miss Sanborn, proprietor of Ben
Venue green houses, is making decided
improvements. She has secured a pro-
fessional florist, Mr. J. B. Minton, Bos-
ton, to take charge.

—Rev. E. E

en Advantage of the Ready-Made ness" Sale?

ely. There is always a choice of fine clothing as ours. The stage of this sale to buy their next winter. Why don't you? For whole spring and summer clothing. No goods reserved, of our

\$5.00
7 and 6.50
8.00
10.00
10.00
12.00
15.00

ame large reduction in boys' of \$1.00 to \$1.50 on men's

lles to our ready-made cloth-
tinue our men's and women's
f goods business.

Nason,
Augusta, Maine.

City News.

—Bethlehem lodge No. 35, F. and A. M., sends a degree team to the grand lodge this week to work the Master Mason's degree.

—The opening of the State grounds opposite the State House, as a public park will add much to the attractiveness of Augusta, and will be appreciated by all our citizens.

—Miss Sanborn, proprietor of Ben's green houses, is making decided improvements. She has secured a professional florist, Mr. J. B. Minton, Boston, to take charge.

—Rev. E. E. Leshar, pastor of the Free Baptist church, will deliver the Memorial service at Beth Williams on May 13, G. A. R., at city hall on the evening of Memorial Sunday.

—Rev. J. M. Wyman, pastor of the Baptist church, is to deliver an address before the New England Missionary Conference this week upon "Baptist Principles and What Baptists Stand for."

—R. W. Soule, the Hustler, makes an announcement in this issue which is good reading to those who are looking for bargains, as he has two thousand yards of carpeting which he is selling at less than cost, in addition to his immense stock so complete in every way.

—One hundred and eighty votes at a school meeting would indicate an important subject for debate. This was the number present at the Village District meeting, Saturday, to elect a member of the Board. Mr. F. W. Plaford was re-elected by an overwhelming majority.

—It really begins to look as though an electric railroad would this season be built from Augusta to Togus, for the city being the natural outlet for all this section there is every reason why such a step should be taken. The announcement is made that work will be begun at once to extend from Water street to the hospital and to Togus.

County News.

—One of the summer schools this year will be held at Waterville.

—The house of Warren Hall, Chelsea, was destroyed by fire Monday morning.

—The funeral of Mr. Geo. W. Carter, one of the honored citizens of Hallowell, was held Tuesday.

—The prospects for a lively season of building were never better in Oakland, than at the present time.

—Rev. J. R. Boardman of Hallowell, has resigned the pastorate of the Congregational church to accept a call to the First Church, Portland.

—The situation at the Hallowell granite works remains unchanged, the scale is 35 cents per hour and 8 hours per day not having been accepted.

—Mrs. M. L. Robbins and daughter, Miss Margaret Robbins, Winthrop, have returned from Philadelphia where they spent the winter, and are at Robbinsdale for the summer.

—Mrs. A. H. Kennerson of Roxbury, Mass., has purchased the old Joe Holmes place in Litchfield, where she was born and where she lived the early part of her life, and is having it renovated for a summer home. She expects to come here in June, with her husband and sons, for the summer.

—WINTHROP. Within the past few days it is now has lost two well known leaders, Arthur Briggs who died Sunday of a heart consumption. Mr. J. Eugene Lewis, postmaster, is in a critical condition.

PERSONAL.

—In the death of Payson Tucker which occurred at St. Claire Springs, Mich., Friday, the state loses one of its ablest men, one who has been so thoroughly identified with the development of its great railroad that his name has become a household word.

—A broad man by natural instinct, and a broad leader, attracting by a strong personality and holding his leadership by an insight into human nature and loyalty to friends.

For the land's sake—use Bowker's fertilizer. They enrich the earth.

State News.

Elmer Maxwell is on trial at Portland for the murder of Capt. Hawley of the schooner J. B. Vandusen in the Bay of Fundy last November.

Kingfield is to enjoy a building boom this year, Wm. Norton, W. B. Small and B. T. Stanley being among those preparing to erect dwellings. In addition the French block will keep carpenter's busy.

Modern ship building is lively but not for the old time crafts. Five masted schooners seem to be the rage, and one 11 to be built at Bath 240 feet long, 40 feet beam and 22 feet deep. It is to be 1,800 tons.

A strange case is that of Miss Lizzie Roberts of Lyman, who died in Hallowell last week from loss of blood following the extraction of some teeth. Physicians found it impossible to check the bleeding.

The great increase in the amount of freight being shipped into Houlton has made it necessary for the Bangor & Aroostook to instruct their architect to draw plans for a seventy foot extension of the freight house at that town.

Frederick Reynolds, who was placed on trial, Tuesday at Calais, on the charge of murder in causing the death of his wife and two children, was found not guilty, by reason of insanity. He will be sent to the Hospital for the insane.

NORTH BERWICK. Brackett Hall, one of the oldest residences of this town, died Wednesday, aged 84.—Lenwood Knight while working at Portland last week out his hand with a piece of zinc, blood poison resulting and at present there is but little hope of recovery.

Yarmouth suffered a \$10,000 loss by fire Monday afternoon, York's corn cannery and grain storehouse and the coal and wood sheds of Roscoe Greeley being the buildings destroyed. The loss is a heavy one to the town as it will seriously affect the plans of the corn growers as well as laborers in the shops.

One hundred and fifty stone cutters in West Sullivan and Franklin granite quarries quit work. Tuesday, after a conference of the Cutters' Union had called upon the contractors asking them to sign a new schedule. In every case the request was refused, the proprietors claiming that they could not pay the increased demands.

DEBHAM. H. P. Burrill is through sawing lumber at his long lumber mill but it will take six or eight weeks to saw the remainder of the shingle stock.

W. B. Black has moved his family to Great Works for the summer.—Frank J. Gray, who lately had a shock, died Thursday, April 26th. The funeral was held at his late residence Sunday, April 29th.

NORTHFIELD. The town schools have been built in one which is being taught in Dist. No. 2. Percy P. Smith has been engaged as teacher.—L. A. Rollins of Wesley, was in town this week.—Early peas and a few potatoes have been planted.—A few of our young people attended the concert at Wesley last Sunday evening.—A. B. Hayward was in town on business this week.—The welcome swallows have returned.

BROOKVILLE. After a very successful year, the high school closes Friday, May 4th. Principal C. E. McGinnis has sent in his resignation, and accompanied by his wife, will start for Boston Saturday, May 5th. Mr. and Mrs. McGinnis have faithfully served the town for the last two years. They are both excellent teachers, and we regret that Brookville is unable to longer retain their services.

The grand jury in Washington county found 43 indictments. Among them were three for murder against Fred Reynolds of Red Beach, who on March 29th, it is alleged, killed his wife and one child and fatally wounded another child and afterwards set fire to his house. The injured child died on the evening of the same day. The other indictments include assault, breaking and entering, larceny and 34 liquor indictments.

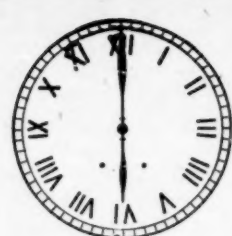
The grounds and buildings known as Oak Grove Park, situated in Springvale, were sold at public auction on Saturday, April 21st. Oak Grove Park Association was organized in 1887 and for several years very successful fairs and races were held. Nearness to the popular fair at Rochester, N. H., and the multiplicity of small fairs in all parts of the county account for lack of interest in later years and consequent sale of the property.

Superintendent McPeake of the Shore Line railway from St. Stephen is authorized for the announcement that a company is endeavoring to purchase the railway and if authority can be obtained from the Canadian and American governments a bridge will be constructed across the St. Croix river at St. Stephen, thereby enabling the road to connect with the Washington county railway in Maine and establish a through line to the west.

CR. LINCOLNVILLE. Mr. Herbert McKinney was in Camden last week on business.—Miss Annie Mariner spent a few days last week with Miss Helen Leadbetter.—Wm. McKinney has a full line of new carriages, farm implements and is our local agent for the Bowker E. Frank Co. and the Great Eastern Fertilizer. He also has the famous Blue Ribbon Lib carriages.—Frank Gray and family have moved into the Knights' house at the Center.

Topsham fair is pressing the state exhibitions more and more every year, and the officers realize the fact and seek all the while to improve. An addition of sixty feet to the grand stand, the building of fifty more cattle sheds are among the improvements this year. Old Sagadahoc fair will be equal to the state fairs in some respects, and surely more complete because later in the season, and better every year. Its officers are workers.

Plans have been made for a general reunion of the alumni of the University of Maine at the coming commencement, June 9-13. Replies already received by the secretary of the association indicate that the attendance will be larger than



**Six o'clock in the Chase
and Sanborn Coffee
Mills!**
And not one pound of
roasted coffee can be
found in their stock!
That's the rule.

Just see how it works! After coffee has been roasted it must not be exposed to the air or it loses half its strength and all its rich aroma. So they roast their **HIGH GRADE COFFEE** only upon order. The coffee is roasted, hermetically sealed in air-tight canisters, and shipped—all on the same day.

If you want coffee which shall make your mouth water for another cup, just ask your grocer for one of Chase & Sanborn's High-Grade Coffees. It will be given you in an imported, air-tight, parchment-lined bag. Try it once.

It has been at no preceding reunion. Seven hundred notices of the reunion were sent out. Something over 200 replies have already been received, and more than half of these are favorable. Every class from 1872 to 1899 is to be represented.

Game Warden Geo. W. Ross says that very little deer killing was indulged in by the natives of Washington county the past winter, and that the animals are very plentiful in all sections of the county. One day recently at township 28, eight deer were seen one morning at one time and eight were noticed back of the station at Dennysville a few days later. The sportsmen who come to Washington county next fall will experience no difficulty in finding game in abundance.

A mixed train on the York Harbor & Beach railway which left Portland Monday, broke apart near the York Harbor station and a passenger car containing nine men ran back and went through a drawbridge into the water. Philip Emery of Kittery, had both legs crushed, his head cut and sustained internal injuries, and Cyrus Smith of Portland had several ribs fractured and was badly bruised. It is feared Mr. Emery will die. The seven remaining passengers were badly shaken up and had narrow escapes from drowning.

HALLEDALE. The schools in town commenced April 30th with the following teachers: Halldale, Margie Rowell; Vose, Cora Poland; Center, Fanny Williams; White's Corner, Della Kane; Plains, Josephine Kane; Kingdome, Lillie Hutchins; Frye, Sybil Merrithew; Carter, Binnie Morley; Ireland, Irene Sibley; McFarland's Corner, Mabel Peacock.—Ephraim Hall went to Rockland Tuesday on business.—Fred Poland and wife are taking care of Mrs. F. Hahn.—John Poland and family arrived from Fitchburg, Mass., last week. Mr. Poland is to take charge of his father's farm this summer.

The village of Skowhegan suffered a disastrous fire early Friday morning by the burning of the saw mill of L. W. Weston & Co., the planing mill of Adams & Caswell, and the electric light station, which will take thousands of dollars to replace. The Adams & Caswell building was beyond control before the fire department could get at it. The Congregational church caught fire from a burning brand and it was some time before the ladders could be placed upon the building to bring water to put out the blaze. It was a fortunate escape for the town. The loss will reach upwards of \$50,000, with \$30,000 insurance on the electric light station.

WEST LEEDS. Mrs. Silas Harvey was thrown from her carriage last Saturday and severely injured by the horse breaking a culvert.—Mr. H. Warren, who has bought the Gilbert place, is making extensive repairs before moving in.—It has been very sickly here with the grip; some cases have been very severe.—At the last large meeting final degrees were conferred and a very interesting Grange Herald was read by Mrs. T. H. Boothby and Mrs. C. H. Lane.—There was but little frost in the ground this spring and people are now hurrying their work on the land.—H. W. Lincoln has lost a valuable cow with milk fever.—R. E. Swain is having a new sidewalk made by his place.

BRUNSWICK. Gen. Hubbard of Baltimore, a graduate, formerly of Hallowell, has presented Bowdoin College one hundred and fifty thousand dollars to be devoted to the erection of a library building. The library is now in King's chapel, which is too small. The library is composed of 65,000 volumes.—Gen. Chamberlain will be the Memorial orator at Bath.—A fire occurred at our new fish market Thursday evening. Several of the fishermen came near being injured by the falling of a chimney. Loss, \$100.—Died, in Harpswell, Mrs. Hannah F. Schofield, aged 76 years, relict of the late Geo. R. Schofield.—In Milwaukee, Wis., Mrs. Lois Ann Estabrook, aged 76 years, relict of the late James Kimball Estabrook of this town. Her remains were brought to Brunswick for burial in Pine Grove cemetery.—Ground froze Saturday night,

ten days later than last year.—Grass is looking well.

LOCKE'S MILLS. School in the village commenced Monday morning. Maud Merrow of West Bethel, is the teacher, and boards at the Mr. Abram House.—Funeral services of the late Wallace Goodwin were held at the Union church, last Sunday, the church being crowded with relatives and friends of this worthy young man. Rev. Mr. Barton officiated. Miss Alice Billings of Bethel, was organist and the music was by a ladies quartette of Bethel. The Principal of Gould Academy and about 40 scholars of Mr. Goodwin were present.—School on Howe Hill to commence Monday, May 7th.—R. E. Emery of North Abington, Mass., has hired A. J. Ayer's farm for one year and will move his family here at once.—Quite a number of people from here went to Portland last Saturday.—Fred Norton was up from Auburn over Sunday.

JEFFERSON. A postoffice has been established here called "Fishlake" and Edwin W. Penasee appointed postmaster.—Hay is very scarce but stock is looking well and the early spring will help out the farmers. The outlook for farming operations never looked more favorable; there will be a large area under cultivation.—Spring rains are doing well and there seems to be a disposition among farmers to give more attention to sheep husbandry.—Assessors are taking the valuation, everything must be taxed and the rate is increased every year in order to meet increased expenses. In the large and sparsely settled towns the road commissioner is a needless expense and a nuisance. The ballot law is another expensive nuisance. The present system of our public schools has not proved satisfactory in these large outlying towns.

Cecil Burgess, the 18-year-old son of George Burgess, two lives about three miles from Caribou on the Washburn road, died Wednesday, April 25th, as the result of a sad accident. Mr. Burgess and his sons were engaged in sawing wood, using a circular saw, with a pair of horses as power. Cecil was employed in bringing the wood and placing it on the table and when so doing lost his balance and fell on the table, directly over the saw. Before the machinery could be stopped, or the boy rescued, the left arm was nearly severed and the left shoulder and shoulder blade with two ribs were cut through. The saw then entered the left lung in close proximity to the heart. The physicians were summoned and did all possible for the boy's comfort, but just as the operation for the removal of his arm was finished he passed away.

James Harriman of Cherryfield, a line-man at work for the electric company at Bangor sustained a shock of 2,500 volts last week and still lives to tell the story. He says, "When the current struck me I felt no pain. I knew that something had happened but couldn't tell what it was. Then I lost my senses. I had no sense of pain until I began coming to and then it was awful. I felt as if every vein in my body was bursting. At first it seemed as if I had had a bad dream. I was only partly conscious of the men holding me. The pain was dreadful. When it was over I was all gone,—as weak as a child and it didn't seem as if I could ever get up again. But I slept well and when I woke up I felt something like myself again. The next day after the accident I was all right except the soreness all over." When it is known that this is a higher voltage than is used in electrocuting criminals the marvel of his escape increases.

WELLINGTON. A few of our people are sick with measles.—Caleb Davis, who has been very sick with rheumatism for a long time, is not improving and his friends are doubtful of his recovery.—Daniel Ward is ill with heart trouble though somewhat improved.—Abner Earl, mill owner, recently injured his right hand quite seriously.—Mr. W. A. Paul has just lost a valuable cow and also found a fine shoat dead in the pen. Mr. Paul is one of our well-to-do farmers but seems to be having some hard luck, as he has been partially laid up all winter with an injured knee.—Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Rogers and daughter from Dead River have recently been in town called here by the illness of Mrs. Rogers' sister.—The community is saddened by the death of Miss Lois A. Whitehouse, daughter of C. C. Whitehouse, who died at the home of her sister, Mrs. S. Whitte, in Athens the 14th ult., at the age of 31 years. She was a young woman of good qualities, highly esteemed in the community. The funeral services were at the church here, Rev. T. E. Ham of Cambridge officiating.

General News.

The resolution of sympathy for the Boers introduced in Congress got a black eye in Senate Monday the vote standing 29 to 20.

It is practically settled that the Shipping Subsidy and Nicaragua Canal bills will be sidetracked by the committee and no action taken on either at this session of Congress.

The worst fire known in Canada was that which visited Hull and the western district of Ottawa Thursday. The loss is roughly estimated at from \$15,000,000 to \$17,000,000. Over 3,000 families have been rendered homeless.

William F. Miller, manager of the Franklin syndicate, which drew in so much money on the promise of enormous interest, was recently convicted of grand larceny, and sentenced to ten years imprisonment. Motions for a new trial and a stay of proceedings were denied.

Politics makes strange bed fellows. Just now there is bitterness in New Hampshire because Hon. Frank Jones, the wealthy brewer of Portsmouth, a life long democrat, has been elected delegate to the Republican National Convention. New Hampshire is not a large state but it is always very much alive politically.

Over 1,000,000 acres of rich farm land have been sold by the Northern Pacific railroad within the last four months in

the states of Minnesota, North Dakota and Washington, and also one-half of the land sold lying within the last named states, the average price of land being from \$1.50 to \$2.50 an acre, the Northern Pacific treasury has been enriched by something like \$2,000,000.

The inauguration of Charles Herbert Allen, ex-assistant secretary of the United States navy, as first American civil governor of the island of Puerto Rico, took place, today. The ceremony was very impressive. A more beautiful day could not have dawned in which to usher in Puerto Rico's new government. An immense crowd was in attendance.

When Hawaii was annexed to this country it had a bonded debt of about \$4,000,000, drawing a heavy rate of interest. This debt still exists, but under the act signed by the President today it is to be assumed by the United States. Secretary Gage does not intend that it shall be added to the debt of the United States, if it can be paid immediately. The terms of the debt will be wiped out as soon as the law goes into effect—in 45 days.

A terrible explosion occurred Tuesday in the winter quarters of the Pleasant Valley Coal company's mine at Shofield on the Rio Grande Western railway, near Cotton, Utah, by which, according to reports, over 100 people were killed and many injured. It is reported that 90 bodies have already been recovered. The explosion is attributed to the blowing up of a number of kegs of blasting powder. The work of rescue is going on and everything possible is being done to relieve the suffering and ascertain the number of dead.

Chicago gave Admiral Dewey a most enthusiastic reception Monday. The cheering started at the depot, swept along the streets as the Admiral and his party were slowly driven to their apartments, the applause being almost without cessation until the Admiral entered the hotel. As the party reached the corner of Jackson boulevard and Dearborn streets a signal was given to a land battery and the officers of revenue cutter Morrill and the U. S. S. Michigan in the harbor and the battery roared out the Admiral's salute of 17 guns, while the guns of the ships fired 21 rounds.

Some idea of the social condition in China may be gathered from the statement of Mrs. Wellington White, at the meeting in the Church of the Strangers, New York, Sunday. She was formerly of the Presbyterian board of China, and created a profound impression by her recital and startling picture of a procession of blind girls who had seen in China. They were led through the streets with painted faces, gaily bedecked with flowers and ribbons, headed by an old woman who owned them and who compelled them to lead immoral lives. She also told of the work Dr. Mary Niles had done for these girls. She said blindness was common among the people owing to the climate and unsanitary conditions.

The Boers are now showing uncommon activity west of Bloemfontein. They are in force between Fourteen Streams and Kimberley. On Sunday they occupied Winderton west of the railway and now threaten to interrupt the communication of the British force at Warrenton to the north. This too at a time when General Hunter is about to start on a two hundred mile march to Mafeking, probably with five thousand men. The English army is making very slow advance and evidence of factional feeling among officials seems to be the cause for the long delay. The latest news received from the Orange Free State, indicates that, though the Boers have evacuated Thabana, they have only done so in order to occupy stronger positions.

The latest from South Africa indicates that fighting heavier than any since Ladysmith, seems to be imminent near Thaba N'Chu. The dispatches of Lord Roberts, dated Monday and Tuesday show that the Boer rear guard, stubbornly resisting his advance, forced the British on Saturday and Sunday to act chiefly on the defensive. General French, who is directing the operations, has at least 15,000 men. Some estimates give him at least 6,000 and possible 10,000. According to a despatch from Pretoria, dated April 28, they were expecting to give battle and have numerous artillery. So long as the Boers engage the attention of half of Lord Roberts' force at Thaba N'Chu his advance toward Pretoria will be delayed. No one here, however, considers that General Botha will be able to stand longer than a few days. The feeling is that he must be beaten off by the masses of Lord Roberts.

For the Maine Farmer.

THE CATERPILLARS HAVE APPEARED.

Mr. Editor: I must write to tell you that the caterpillars have hatched and are out in force. I went to cut some alons and found the first little caterpillars hatched and crawling. I put on my glasses and found them all over the orchard, a sight I never met before in April. What are we coming to? It makes me feel almost like giving up, but that won't do and my sprayer has started and must be kept going. I have sprayed my cherry trees once and am now going over the apple trees. My gooseberry bushes are looking finely and all the small fruit has wintered well. The ice does not seem to have done any damage. Plum trees will blossom full. The ground is very dry for the time of year.

Very truly,
R. E. LINNEY.

This office is under obligations to D. M. Ferry & Co., seedsmen, Detroit, Mich., for a generous supply of garden and flower seeds. This firm ranks today among the leading, reliable growers and shippers of the country and their seeds give satisfaction to the user everywhere.

A sample of the Pure Gem of the Aroostook potatoes, grown by W. P. Atherton, Hallowell, may be seen on our desk; large, smooth, firm in grain and with every appearance of choice quality. It is just the stock to try this year.

Sec. McKeen announces that his report for 1899 will be issued several months earlier than last year.

Worcester Buckeye Mowers

Will cut more grass, for less money, than any other mowers on the face of the earth. See the new improvements for 1900.

Worcester Horse Rakes

Are made to last. THEY SATISFY EVERYBODY.

Bullard Hay Tedders

THE STANDARD TEDDER of the WORLD.

MANUFACTURED BY THE
RICHARDSON MANUFACTURING CO.,
Worcester, Mass.

MAINE'S GREATEST SECRET.

BICYCLE BARGAINS.

We sell bicycles as we do everything else—The greatest possible value for the money. We are agents for the

**STEARNS, SHAWMUT,
DAYTON, B. & D. SPECIAL,
TOURIST, COPLEY,
FAY (for boys and girls).**

CATALOGUES OF ANY OR ALL ON REQUEST.

Our special bargain this year is a fully warranted, high grade wheel for

\$21.50.

"WE PAY THE FREIGHT."

Oren Hooper's Sons.

PORTLAND, MAINE.

Grappling at a Straw

is hardly the case when a person suffering from dyspepsia buys a bottle of the True "L. F." Atwood's Bitters. It's more like reaching the substantial shore on a footing of Good Health. "L. F." will cure you.

Reliable Business Firms

WILLIAMSON & BURLEIGH,
COUNSELLORS-AT-LAW. Collections made everywhere. Offices over Granite Bank, Augusta, Maine.

WONDER AIR-TIGHT STOVE.
GUARANTEED to run 48 hours. TANKS, CARRIES & REEDS. Plumbers, Steam Fitters and Hardware, PAINTS AND OILS.

BUSSELL & WESTON.
WE SHOW the largest and choicest line of Ladies' and Misses' CLOAKS, FUR TRIMMINGS to be found in the city.

E. E. DAVIS & CO.
Under City House, Augusta, are showing the Spring Styles of excellent Lams and Hubbard Line, Spring Overcoats, Suits, and all seasonable goods.

H. F. BURT, Taunton, Mass., sends 12 full-sized plants. Flower seeds for 10c; 20 different Dahlias \$1; 10 pkts. Vegetable Seeds 25c. Satisfaction guaranteed. Correspondence invited. *Late Feb. 50c prizes for Dahlias in 1899.* Best collection in America. Please write.

It is now time to watch your trees and shrubs, to prevent and destroy

"INSECT LIFE."

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Sec. McKeen announces that his report for 1899 will be issued several months earlier than last year.

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THE CRUCIFIXION OF PHILIP STRONG.

By REV. CHARLES M. SHELDON,
Author of "In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?" "Malcolm Kirk," "Robert Hardy's Seven Days," Etc.

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CHAPTER XIX.

As the man looked up at Philip in a dazed and uncertain manner Philip said slowly:

"You're not hurt badly, I hope. Why did you attack me?"

The man seemed too bewildered to answer. Philip leaned over and put one arm about him to help him rise. He struggled to his feet and almost instantly sat down on the curb at the side of the road, holding his head between his hands. For a moment Philip hesitated. Then he sat down beside him and, after finding out that he was not seriously hurt, succeeded in drawing him into a conversation which grew more and more remarkable as it went on. As he thought back upon it afterward Philip was unable to account exactly for the way in which the confidence between him and his assailant had been brought about. The incident and all that followed out of it had such a bearing on the crucifixion that it belongs to the whole story.

"Then you say," went on Philip after they had been talking briefly in ques-

tion and answered for a few minutes—

"You say that you meant to rob me, taking me for another man?"

"Yes, I thought you were the mill man. What is his name? Wintery?"

"Why did you want to rob him?"

The man looked up and said hoarsely, almost savagely, "Because he has money, and I was hungry."

"How long have you been hungry?"

"I have not had anything to eat for almost three days."

"There is food to be had at the poor commissioners'. Did you know that fact?"

The man did not answer, and Philip asked him again. The reply came in a tone of bitter emphasis that made the minister start:

"Yes, I knew it! I would starve before I went to the poor commissioners for food."

"Or steal," said Philip gently.

"Yes, or steal. Wouldn't you?"

Philip stared into the darkness of the court and answered honestly, "I don't know."

There was a short pause. Then he asked:

"Can't you get work?"

It was a hopeless question to put to a man in a town of over 2,000 idle men. The answer was what he knew it would be:

"Work! Can I pick up a bushel of gold in the street out there? Can a man get work where there ain't any?"

"What have you been doing?"

"I was fireman at the Lake mills. Good job; lost it when they closed down last winter."

"What have you been doing since?"

"Anything I could get."

"Are you a married man?"

The question affected the other strangely. He trembled all over, but his heart's anguish flowed the words: "I had a wife. She's dead—of consumption. I had a little girl. She's dead too. Thank God! exclaimed the man, with a change from a sob to a curse. "Thank God! And curses on all rich men who had it in their power to prevent the hell on earth for other people, and which they will feel for themselves in the other world!"

Philip did not say anything for some time. What could any man say to another at once under such circumstances? Finally he said:

"What will you do with money if I give you some?"

"I don't want your money," replied the man.

"I thought you did a little while ago."

"It was the mill owner's money I wanted. You're the preacher, ain't you, up at Calvary church?"

"Yes. How did you know?"

"I've seen you; heard you preach once. I never thought I should come to this—holding up a preacher down here!"

The man laughed a hard, short laugh.

"Then you're not?" Philip hardly knew how to say it. He wanted to say that the man was not connected in any way with the saloon element. "You're driven to this desperate course by your own account? The reason I ask is because I have been threatened by the whisky men, and at first I supposed you were one of their men."

"No, sir," was the answer, almost in disgust. "I may be pretty bad, but I've not got so low as that."

"Then your only motive was hunger?"

"That was all. Enough, ain't it?"

"We can't discuss the matter here," said Philip. He hesitated, rose and stood there looking at the man, who sat now with his head resting on his arms, which were folded across his knees. Two or three persons came out of a street near by and walked past. Philip knew them and said good evening. They thought he was helping some drunken man, a thing he had often done, and they went along without stopping. Again the street was deserted.

"What will you do now? Where will you go?"

"God knows. I am an outcast on this earth."

"Have you no home?"

"Home? Yes, the gutter, the street, the bottom of the river."

"My brother!" Philip laid his hand on the man's shoulder. "Come home with me, have something to eat, and stay with me for awhile."

It was all said so calmly, so lovingly, so honestly, that the man softened under it. He rolled over his cheek. He brushed his hand over his eyes. It had been a long time since any one had called him "brother."

"Come!" Philip reached out his hand and helped him to rise. The man staggered and might have fallen if Philip had not supported him. "I am faint and dizzy," he said.

"Courage, man! My home is not far off. We shall soon be there. My companion was silent. As they came up to the door Philip said, 'I haven't asked your name, but it might save a little awkwardness if I knew it.'"

"William—" Philip did not hear the last name, it was spoken in such a low voice.

Mrs. Strong at once set food upon the table, and then she and Philip with true delicacy busied themselves in another room so as not to watch the hungry man while he ate. When he had satisfied his hunger, Philip showed him the little room where the "Brother Man" had staid one night.

"You may make it your own as long as you will," Philip said. "You may lay upon it as simply a part of what has been given to be used for the Father's children."

The man seemed dazed by the preacher's words. He murmured something about thanks. He was evidently very much worn, and the excitement of the evening given place to an appearance of dejection that alarmed Philip. After a few words he went out and left the man, who said that he felt very drowsy.

"I believe he is going to have a fever or something," Mr. Strong said to his wife as he joined her in the other room. He related his meeting with the man, making very light of the attack and indeed serving it on the ground of his desperate condition.

His fear was realized. The next morning he found his lodger in the clutch of fever. Before night he was delirious. The doctor came and pronounced him dangerously ill. And Philip, with the burden of his work weighing heavier on him every moment, took up this additional load and prayed his Lord to give him strength to carry it and save another soul.

It was at the time of this event in Mr. Strong's life that another occurred which had its special bearing upon the crisis of all his life.

The church was dear to his thought, loved by him with a love that only a few of the members understood. In spite of his apparent failure to rescue them to a conception of their duty as he saw it, he was confident that the spirit of God would accomplish the miracle which he could not do. Then there were those in Calvary church who sympathized heartily with him and were ready to follow his leadership.

He began to plan for a series of Sunday night services different from anything Milton had ever known. His life in the tenement district and his growing knowledge of the labor world had convinced him of the fact that the church was missing its opportunity in not grappling with the problem as it existed in Milton. It seemed to him the first step to a successful solution of that problem was to reach the church and the workingman to get together upon some common platform for a better understanding. He accordingly planned for a series of Sunday night services, in which his one great purpose was to unite the church and the labor unions in a scheme of mutual help and sympathy. His plan was very simple. He invited into the meeting one or two thoughtful leaders of the mill men and asked them to state in the plainest terms the exact condition of affairs in the labor world from their standpoint. Then he, for the church, took up their statements, their complaints or the reasons for their differences with the church and the church from the Christian standpoint—what would Christ advise under the circumstances? He had different subjects presented on different evenings. One night it was reasons why the mill men were not in the church. Another night it was the demand of men for better homes and how to get them. Another night it was the subject of strikes and the attitude of Christ on wages and the relative value of the wage earners' product and the capitalists' intelligence. At each meeting he allowed one or two of the invited leaders to take the platform and say very plainly what to his mind was the cause and what the remedy for the poverty and crime and suffering of the world. Then he closed the evening's discussion by a calm, clear statement of what was to him the direct application of Jesus' teaching to the point at issue.

CHAPTER XX.

We cannot do better than give the evening paper account of the last service in the series. With one or two slight exaggerations the account was a faithful picture of one of the most remarkable meetings ever held in Milton.

"Last night, it will be safe to say, those who were fortunate enough to secure standing room in Rev. Philip Strong's church heard and saw things that no other church in this town ever witnessed."

"In the first place, it was a most astonishing crowd of people. Several of the church members were present, but they were in the minority. The mill men swarmed in and took possession of the pews."

"The foolish and unnecessary expenditures of society on its trivial pleasures at a time when men and women are out of work and children are crying for food is a cruel and un-Christian waste of opportunity."

"If Christ were here today, I believe he would tell the rich men of Milton that every cent they have belongs to Almighty God, and they are only trustees of his property."

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The Brother Man was kneeling at the side of the bed praying.

real heart of the subject. He proposed that every church in town, regard-

less of its denomination, give itself in its pastor and members to the practical solution of the social troubles by personal contact with the suffering and sickness in the district; that the churches all throw open their doors every day in the week, weekdays as well as Sundays, for the discussion and agitation of the whole matter; that the country and the state be petitioned to take speedy action toward providing necessary labor for the unemployed, and that the churches cut down all unnecessary expenses of paid choirs, do away with pew rents, urge wealthy members to consecrate their riches to the solving of the problem and in every way, by personal sacrifice and common union, let the churches of Milton as a unit work and pray and sacrifice to make themselves felt as a real power on the side of the people in their present great need. It was Christian America, but Philip's plan was not adopted. It was discussed with some warmth, but declared to be visionary, impracticable, unnecessary, not for the church to undertake, beyond its function, etc. Philip was disappointed, but he kept his temper.

"Well, brethren," he said, "what can we do to help the solution of these questions? Is the church of America to have no share in the greatest problem of human life that agitates the world today? Is it not true that the people in this town regard the church as an insignificant organization, unable to help at the very point of human crisis, and the preachers as a lot of weak, impractical men, with no knowledge of the state of affairs? Are we not divided over our denominational differences when we ought to be united in one common work for the saving of the whole man? I do not have any faith in the plan proposed to give our benevolence or to district the town and visit the poor. All those things are well enough in their place. But what are such things now and here and over the country that we must do something larger than that? We must do as Christ would do if he were here. What would he do? Would he give anything less than his whole life to it? Would he not give himself? The church as an institution is facing the greatest opportunity of its history. If we do not seize it on the largest possible scale, we shall miserably fail of doing our duty."

Saturday night he was out calling a little while, but he came home early. It was the first Sunday of the month on the morrow, and he had not fully prepared his sermon. He was behind with it. As he came home he met him with a look of news on his face.

"Guess you is here?" she said in a whisper.

"The Brother Man," replied Philip quickly.

"Yes, but you never can guess what has happened. He is in there with William. And the Brother Man—Philip, it seems like a chapter out of a novel—the Brother Man has discovered that William is his only son, who cursed his father and deserted him when he gave away his property. They are in there together. I could not keep the Brother Man out."

Philip and Sarah stepped to the door of the little room, which was open, and looked in.

The Brother Man was kneeling at the side of the bed praying, and his son was listening, with one hand tight clasped in his father's and the tears rolling over his pale face.

CHAPTER XXI.

When the Brother Man had finished his prayer, he rose, and, stooping over his son, he kissed him. Then he turned about and looked at Sarah, who almost felt guilty of intrusion in looking at such a scene. But the Brother Man was a radiant look. To Philip's surprise he was not excited. The same ineffable peace beamed from his entire person. To that peace was now added a faithfulness.

"Yes," he said very simply, "I have found my son which was lost. God is good to me. He is good to all his children. He is the All Father. He is Love."

"Did you know your son was here?" Philip asked.

"No; I found him here. You have saved his life. That was doing as God would."

"It was very little we could do," said Philip with a sigh. He had seen so much trouble and suffering that day that his soul was sick within him. Yet he welcomed this event in his home. It seemed like a little brightening of heaven on earth.

"I have not seen him for years. He was my youngest son. We quarreled. All that is past. He did not know that to give up all that one has was the will of God. Now he knows. When he is well, we will go away together—yes, together." He spread out his palms in his favorite gesture, with plentiful content in his face and voice.

As spring had blossomed into summer and summer ripened into autumn, one had predicted better times. But the predictions did not bring them. The suffering and sickness and helplessness of the tenement district grew every day more desperate. To Philip it seemed like the ulcer of Milton. All the surface remedies proposed and adopted by the churches and the churches and the benevolent societies had not touched the problem. The mills were going on part time. Thousands of men yet lingered in the place hoping to get work. Even if the mills had been running as usual that would not have diminished one particle of the sin and vice and drunkenness that sat upon the streets. And as Philip studied the matter with brain and soul he came to a conclusion regarding the duty of the church. He did not pretend to go beyond that, but as the weeks went by and fall came on and another winter stared the people coldly in the face he knew that he must speak out what burned in him.

He had been a year in Milton. Every month of that year had impressed him with the deep and apparently hopeless chasm that yawned between the working world and the church. There was no point of contact. One was suspicious, the other was indifferent. Something had to be done to bridge the gap, and that bridge was to be built on the basis of radical positive and Christian must be done to right the condition that faced the churches of Milton. That was in his soul as he went his way like one of the old prophets, imbued with the love of God as he saw it in the heart of Christ. With infinite longing he yearned to bring the church to a sense of her great power and opportunity. So matters had finally drawn to a point in the month of No-

less of its denomination, give itself in its pastor and members to the practical solution of the social troubles by personal contact with the suffering and sickness in the district; that the churches all throw open their doors every day in the week, weekdays as well as Sundays, for the discussion and agitation of the whole matter; that the country and the state be petitioned to take speedy action toward providing necessary labor for the unemployed, and that the churches cut down all unnecessary expenses of paid choirs, do away with pew rents, urge wealthy members to consecrate their riches to the solving of the problem and in every way, by personal sacrifice and common union, let the churches of Milton as a unit work and pray and sacrifice to make themselves felt as a real power on the side of the people in their present great need. It was Christian America, but Philip's plan was not adopted. It was discussed with some warmth, but declared to be visionary, impracticable, unnecessary, not for the church to undertake, beyond its function, etc. Philip was disappointed, but he kept his temper.

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With Mrs. Strong a little while, and she was called into the other room, and Mr. Winter was left alone. He was sitting in the room, and he was thinking of the conversation between the other man and his son. Something in the man's face had struck him, and he had felt that the man was not what he seemed. He had felt that the man was not what he seemed. He had felt that the man was not what he seemed.

CHAPTER XXII.

They were going out of the house, and the patient called Philip back. He was sitting in the room, and he was thinking of the conversation between the other man and his son. Something in the man's face had struck him, and he had felt that the man was not what he seemed. He had felt that the man was not what he seemed. He had felt that the man was not what he seemed.

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Home Department.

WHY DO WE WAIT?

Why do we wait till ears are deaf before we speak our kindly word, and only utter loving praise when not a whisper can be heard?

Why do we wait till hands are laid close folded, pulses, and eye place when roses sweet and rare, and smiles in their flawless grace?

Why do we wait till eyes are sealed to light and love in death's deep trance, and only open eyes before we bend dear wishes with impassioned glance?

Why do we wait till hearts are still and all the love in ours, and give them all the love of praise, and lay above them fragrant flowers?

Why do we wait, we careless, wait till life's best opportunities are past, and break our "alabaster box of ointment" at the very last?

Oh, let us heed the living friend who walks with us life's common ways, and watch our eyes for look of love, and hunger for a word of praise!

—British Weekly.

WHAT KINDS OF AMUSEMENTS ARE MOST BENEFICIAL TO YOUNG PEOPLE?

Just delivered at Greene Grange, Apr. 5, by J. H. Hanson, lecturer.

I think we should find at the present day, but few people who will not allow that amusements of some kind are necessary for young people, and not only for the young but also for older ones. The first point to be considered on the subject is—what is the object of amusement? I think the real object is rest, and any kind which does not subvert to this end loses much of its value.

An entertainment which leaves us weary in body or mind seems to defeat its prime object. Children, at a very early age, call for amusement; but how easy it is to supply their wants and to entertain the little ones at home, there are so many things provided at the present time in the way of games, many of which are instructive as well as amusing and give parents a grand opportunity, if we take an interest in them as we should, of teaching them many important lessons in honesty and truthfulness.

How essential it is that we in the first place make the children feel that there is no place in all the world like home, and that each one is necessary to complete the happiness of home; that not one is in the way of the happiness of another.

I was very much touched in reading a little piece in the Farmer entitled "No place at home." A boy of fourteen years was seen on the street evening after evening; this attracted the attention of a person, who gained his confidence and questioned him in regard to his being found there so often, to which he replied that there was no place for him at home; that he had two grown-up sisters who entertained company evenings at home, and gave him to understand that he was not wanted; that his father was always tired evenings and did not wish to be disturbed. He said it was not so before his Grandmother died; he used to go to her room and have a jolly time; that she liked boys. The person interested, inquired of him in regard to his mother.

"Oh, she is a reformer," he said, "she visits prisons and work houses, trying to reform men, and is always writing articles on how to reform boys." And yet she had no time to spend with her own boy, and there was no place for him at home. Let us strive to do our whole duty at home first, and we shall be much better fitted to reform the world.

Our children become older, it is natural for them to wish to mingle in society and to seek more or less amusement outside of the home. This is right. We would not wish to keep them from it; but the question arises, What kinds of amusements will be beneficial to them? Of course, no one kind is sufficient; there is a great variety. Any entertainment which is pure and of a character which tends to improve the morals of a community is beneficial.

Young people who are possessed with musical talent need never lack for amusement, even when alone, as many otherwise lonely hours will pass pleasantly away under the control of this muse, while many others who are not able to produce it themselves, have been thrilled with rapturous delight while listening to others.

Reading, both humorous and sentimental, when of a high character is always profitable and entertaining. A good laugh is often better than medicine. The person who has a taste for reading, like the lover of music, is never at a loss for amusement. Reading clubs in a community are decidedly beneficial and should be organized in the country as well as in the city, thus causing many of our young people to become conversant with different authors and their works, who have not an ardent love for reading alone, while together with their associates it becomes a pleasing pastime and at the same time instructive. How restful it is, when wearied with the labors of the day, to sit down for a quiet hour of reading! and the practice of reading aloud in the home, for the edification of the home circle, is exceedingly valuable.

Dramatic entertainments are always enjoyable to both old and young, and are patronized by the majority of communities. Dr. Parkhurst, I think it was, who said that people ought to attend a dramatic entertainment once a week. Such amusements tend to divert the mind from all care and necessarily are restful.

In treating this subject, perhaps we should not do it justice not to say anything in regard to dancing. At any point I would like to give a quotation, as I think it will apply very forcibly to parents in directing the paths of their children.

C. B. Goldwater, Druggist, Troy, Ala., wrote, February 26, 1893, "FOR GRANULATED EYELIDS, I would not take \$50.00 for the good."

Palmer's Lotion

has done my son, who had been in care of a physician for 15 months."

Lotion Soap

Prevents and cures, in curing sore eyes, and sore eyelids. At Druggists only.

GREAT OFFERS.

THE MAINE FARMER: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper. May 3, 1900.

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Learn to greet your friends with a smile. They carry too many frowns in their own hearts to be bothered with any of yours.—Rural World.

No doubt many a housekeeper, as she packs away her family's winter clothing for the summer, sprinkling the garments with pepper and cedar and other things supposed to be offensive to moths, wonders what these little pests were made for, any way. The *Charch Monthly* is a recent number answers this question as follows: In our houses the clothes moth does not do as much harm as it used to do. It is a nuisance, but it has a work to do and does it. What becomes of the hair which is woven into so many birds' nests when the nests themselves are deserted? The clothes moths destroy it, and the nests, which otherwise would cumber the branches of the trees for years, are enabled to fall to pieces. What becomes of the wool which sheep rub up upon thorns and bushes? The clothes moths destroy it. What becomes of the plumage of dead birds and the hair on the skin of dead animals? The clothes moths destroy them. These little creatures have their uses after all. They belong to the great army of nature's scavengers, whose task it is to remove all dead and useless matter, and it is only when they trespass into his dwelling that they become the enemies of man.—Ez.

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